

# The Sun.

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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts and illustrations will please send them to the editorial department, they will be in all cases sent stamps for that purpose.

## The Democratic Way to Provide Revenue for National Defense.

The Baltimore platform addressed to Woodrow Wilson and other Democrats whom it might concern the subjoined instructions with regard to taxation by tariff:

"We declare it to be a fundamental principle of the Democratic party that the Federal Government, under the Constitution, has no right or power to impose or collect tariff duties except for the purpose of revenue, and we demand that the collection of such taxes shall be limited to the necessities of government, honestly and economically administered."

Conversely, it is a fundamental principle of the Democratic party that the Federal Government has both the right and the power to impose and collect tariff duties for the purpose of revenue to be devoted to the necessities of government honestly and economically administered.

A supreme necessity of government is preparedness against foreign attack. There is no honest expenditure of money raised by taxation. There is no more economical expenditure of the public money, as was shown by one great Democrat, SAMUEL J. THOMAS, in his memorable plea for adequate appropriations for harbor and coast defense, when he contrasted the cost of such insurance with the cost of neglect.

Here, then, according to the fundamental principles of the Democratic party, is the proper constitutional method of providing for the national defense. The revenue needed for armament is to be collected at the custom houses.

With this constitutional and truly Democratic source of revenue available, and until its possibilities have been exhausted or its inadequacy proved by experience, any proposal to issue bonds for the requirements of national defense is the counsel of folly, almost criminal in its indifference to Democratic principle, to political common sense and to plain duty.

There is no more warrant for a bond issue for this purpose, the tariff source of revenue being available, than there is for a bond issue to pay the current expenses of the West Point and Annapolis establishments.

That is why we hesitate to believe that President Wilson and his advisers can dream of recommending to Congress to go to the bankers before going to the custom houses. It is enough to make THOMAS JEFFERSON turn in his grave.

## Cuba Herself Again.

Under President MENOCAL Cuba has been orderly and on the whole prosperous in spite of the war. It has not been required of the United States to call the attention of the Havana Government to the Platt Amendment lately. Peace has claimed Cuba to the further recesses of Oriente, hotbed of "revolutions." Her politicians have not even shot one another. There has been no blood or bluster. Cuba has been safe and sane, the Government stable, her people contented. But of a sudden we are made aware that it was a counterfeit calm, at least so far as the politicians were concerned.

How familiar is the warning of General JOSE MIGUEL GOMEZ, ex-President and seasoned politician, that President MENOCAL must not seek reelection a year hence if he is a patriot. "A reelection at such a time when the country is still in a formative stage," says the hope of the Liberal party, "would mean revolution." To an outsider it would seem that the country in its "formative stage" needs a second term of MENOCAL, because he is a man of education, a business expert, a specialist in public works, and because he is familiar with American institutions as no other man in Cuba is today, besides being conservative and practical. General GOMEZ may be the hero of the Liberal party, but MARIANO MENOCAL is the hope of intelligent Cubans.

The Liberal leader declares that he relinquished the Presidency as a patriot, who saw that if he accepted

another term there would be a revolution. Now as a matter of fact, General GOMEZ wanted another term, but the people were dissatisfied with his administration. It was all a bluff. He could not have imposed himself upon the country without bringing upon it unnumbered woes and risking his personal safety. So he retired as gracefully as possible. Since that exhibition of patriotism the General's press agents have been touting him as President MENOCAL's successor. The General has now inaugurated his campaign. Away out in Oriente unrest among the negroes is reported and there is a hint of an uprising. It is Cuban politics of the old brand.

## Yes, Dr. Dumba Leaves a Message.

Dr. CONSTANTIN THEODOR DUMBA is singularly mistaken when he declares with some of the symptoms of personal irritation that he has no parting message for the American people.

The parting message of the gentleman who was lately the Ambassador of Austria-Hungary to the United States is of the nature of an object lesson, and it is an extremely important and impressive message.

Without uttering a word of his own, Dr. DUMBA tells not only the Government and people of the United States but also the Government and people of every other civilized or semi-civilized nation on the face of the earth how essential it is that the person charged with the difficult and delicate task of preserving under extraordinary conditions the cordial amity existing between two friendly Powers shall be a man of broad capacity as well as of cunning enterprise, and that intelligence is no fit substitute for high intelligence in the exercise of diplomatic functions.

The Dumba incident will constitute for all time one of the classic examples of diplomatic inadequacy. It will long continue to teach the immense importance of selecting the right man for an international representative post in which it is always the power of the wrong man to impede the friendship if not actually to fracture the peace between two countries.

In the treaties devoted to international law and precedents the worthy Doctor's name will now figure at the bottom of the awful list headed by Citizen GENE. He will do good in this monetary way, and to that extent, we suppose, he is entitled to a qualified expression of our republic's gratitude as he departs from our shores.

## Mr. Edison Recuses the Naval Advisory Board From Josephus.

Mr. Edison's conception of the purposes and possibilities of the Navy Department's consulting board of civilian engineers, disclosed in THE SUN yesterday, is not so poetical as the notion of that body's functions which Mr. DANIELS has impressed on the public. Mr. Edison indulged in no talk about "mobilizing the inventors." He has no patience with the suggestion that the responsible naval officers should be superseded. He unfolds a sane design to supplement the regular establishment with specially qualified authorities, whose experience and knowledge may be made quickly available when it is needed, but who shall not intrude in the orderly administration of its affairs.

In short, Mr. Edison dismisses the poetry of the Secretary and puts an enterprise that has been the subject of many romantic and rhapsodic outpourings in high places on a plane of common sense and practicality. The plan he has in mind may be productive of highly beneficial results. The dream that JOSEPHUS cherished, if his utterances truly revealed his mental operations, held the seeds of confusion and disaster.

How notably successful Mr. Edison's board would be it were able to bring JOSEPHUS back from the heights of fanciful imaginings to the not uninteresting level of actual and existing conditions!

## How Many of the Eggs Will Hatch?

The Tax Commissioners have endeavored to put into operation their plan for augmenting the city's revenues by increasing the tentative assessment on personal property from \$850,640.140 for this year to \$8,700,000,000 for 1916. These figures express the hopes and guesses of the appraisers. The tentative \$850,640.140 of 1915 shrank to \$552,051,755 in the process of correction, and the amount fixed upon for next year will be magnificently reduced through the familiar method of swearing off. Even what remains will represent a high aspiration rather than tangible assets; the item of unpaid taxes must be taken into account, and this is likely to be larger when an effort is made to levy on household goods, stocks, bonds, debts due, merchandise on hand, cash on hand, jewelry and the like.

The policy of the city for several years has been to look to real estate for its income, and to neglect personal property. This tendency is shown in the last assessments of personality since 1807:

Year.	Valuation.	Year.	Valuation.
1887.	\$418,875,395	1906.	\$567,306,940
1888.	\$488,987,860	1907.	\$554,861,313
1889.	\$485,574,665	1908.	\$435,774,611
1890.	\$485,574,665	1909.	\$435,774,611
1891.	\$509,192,612	1910.	\$432,820,855
1892.	\$526,400,139	1911.	\$432,820,855
1893.	\$608,866,092	1912.	\$432,820,855
1894.	\$625,078,878	1913.	\$432,820,855
1895.	\$690,561,926	1914.	\$432,820,855
1915.	\$562,051,755		

It has never been asserted that the amount of personal property taxable by the city in 1914 was only half that of 1903. Exact values are impossible to obtain, and various changes in the statutes must be taken into consideration, but the falling off is largely attributable to the difficulty of collecting the tax and the facility with

which those selected to pay can get out of it.

This leniency has been compensated for by more burdensome imposts on real estate, the capacity of which to bear them was reached, if not exceeded, two or three years ago. In 1903 the full 100 per cent. valuation was put into effect in all the boroughs. The increase in real estate valuations for 1914 over 1913 was only about \$43,000,000. For 1916 the tentative increase over the final figures for 1915 is \$143,400,000, but the increase over the tentative valuations for this year is only \$72,000,000, or about the sum that was clipped from the tentative figures of 1915. The revision is likely to bring the total real estate valuation down by more than that.

The tentative personal property valuations certainly, and the real estate valuations probably, will be greatly reduced before the books close, and until these are recorded Father KNICKENBOCKER will not know on what he must pay in 1916. He will, however, have the disconcerting knowledge that he surely is not going to get off light.

One fear I had was as to the moral effect of the loan—Senator WILLIAM JOEL STONE of Missouri.

Moral effects have always been of special interest to Gum Shoe BILL.

Each fracas that occurs in Sing Sing under Warden OSORNE's management is thoroughly advertised. Before his installation the public heard little of what went on behind the prison gates. Are the fights between convicts more numerous under the present system than was the case under the old? We suspect that the ordinarily honest man is not deeply stirred when he hears that a burglar has broken a pickpocket's head; better, he may say, than that a convict household should be about in the night as he attempts to guard his property. TOM BROWN has his amusing aspects; he invites ridicule at times; but it has not been reported that he receives a commission for letting politician-contractors serve rotten meat to the prisoners. The inmates of Sing Sing are not the only persons affected by the new administration, and Mr. OSORNE has effected reforms that impinge on resourceful individuals who dwell beyond the walls of his institution.

It doesn't make a bit of difference to me what happens to anyone. I'm going to be married—Miss ALBERTA HILL, executive secretary of the Women's Political Union.

One woman's place is in the home.

We of Pennsylvania are positive that the great majority of the delegates to the next Republican National Convention, wherever it may meet, will be in favor of our senior United States Senator for the remainder of this term. And indeed, why should we of Pennsylvania not be for him? For thirty years he has been the leader of the political life of that great State, and so far as we are concerned for those who may be prejudiced, we feel that he has not made any mistake in any of his political movements—State Senator JOHN O. BERRY.

Thus was the Hon. BOBIE FENNER "presented" to the Patriotic Order of the Sons of America at a meeting in Baltimore on Wednesday. Senator SHEPARD had apparently forgotten the name of MATTHEW STANLEY QUAY, and it was not tactful to characterize reformers who have differed with Mr. FENNER as "prejudiced." The Senator, too good a politician to aspire to the Presidency, must have prayed to be spared the tribute of such a friend.

Commissioner Woods has ordered the establishment of a police school for revolver practice. This should be good news for the "innocent bystander."

With wireless telephony triumphantly established, I'm going to be vexed if Central occasionally abuses them that the atmosphere is "busy."

## MR. MOSS'S PETITIONS.

He Knows of No Irregularities in His Designation Papers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Referring to your editorial article of today, I beg to state that I have no unwelcome comments, and which I have no doubt you will correct. The accusations of forgery concerning the petition of the Progressive party filed prior to the primaries do not relate to the petitions which were filed for me. The petitions filed for me named me alone, and I am not aware of any criticism made upon them.

The petition as to which charges of forgery have been made, as I understand it, does not contain my name at all, but the names of other candidates.

NEW YORK, October 1.

The secretary of the Honest Ballot Association was quoted in the Times of Thursday in these words:

"Although we found fraud in practically all the designating petitions, it is most numerous and daring in the Progressive petitions which designate District Attorney and Sheriff."

THE SUN does not believe Mr. MOSS would knowingly engage in primary frauds, or willingly profit from them. His weakness is not of that kind.

## The Rate of Interest on the Foreign Loan.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: "Amami Wrong" forgets that the difference between the selling price of the foreign loan bonds, and 100, which the investor is to be paid in five years, is two points, or about 4 of 1 per cent. a year, which added to his 5.1 per cent. makes 9.1 per cent.

NEW YORK, October 1.

A Concluding Appeal From Bovina.

From the Vicksburg Herald.  
WANTED—The person who hit my cow on the State highway with their auto about 7 miles out from Vicksburg to write me at the cow's badly injured leg. JOSEPHUS KELLER, R. F. D. No. 2, Bovina, Miss. auz2-3t

The Wireless Telephone.

With wireless round the world. What changes are unfurled!

The unseen life in air. No longer will be there.

The angel white of wing. Will cease his hovering.

No longer will the ghost. Frequent the viewless coast.

The germ will find it. A deathblow for his life.

All these beyond a doubt. Will soon be crowded out.

The air will team with herds. Of words and words and words!

McLARDEN WILSON.

## THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

Mr. Wickham Discusses the Provisions About County Government and the State Legislature.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The revised Constitution provides a measure of home rule for counties, and provisions looking to the improvement of county government. In very populous counties such as Erie, Westchester and Nassau there has been a great demand for improved county government. In many of the less thickly settled counties not only was there no demand for change but there was positive opposition to any departure from the existing system.

This fact grows out of the greatly varying conditions of the counties. Delegate LAW, during the debates, pointed out that the counties varied in area as much as from St. Lawrence with 2,860 square miles to Richmond with 53; in population, leaving out of consideration the counties in Greater New York, as much as Erie, with 528,985, and Hamilton, with 4,373; in density of population, as much as Westchester, with 588 persons to the square mile, and Hamilton, with 3.

Sixteen counties have a population of 100 or more to the square mile, and forty-one counties have less than that number. In the county of Erie 80 per cent. of the population resides in the city of Buffalo; in Monroe, 70 per cent. in the city of Rochester. In Nassau county the assessed valuation, per capita, is \$1,901; in Lewis, \$400. The per capita expense of government in Hamilton is \$23.21, in Yates, \$2.78.

As Mr. JOHN L. O'BRIEN, chairman of the Committee on County Government, said in presenting the report of his committee to the convention: "The policy of the State has been to entrust county government entirely to the Legislature, on the theory that the county as an entity acts as the agent of the State in performing State functions." The result has been that aside from the general county law there are special laws affecting every county. Mr. BARRETT of Westchester estimated that more than 1,200 of such special laws had been passed since the enactment of the general county law in 1892, without including the acts relating to New York city. Besides all this, customs have grown up in every county, practically controlling the statute law, and as Delegate LAW said, "the result is that in the fifty-seven kinds of county law."

The principal complaint against the workings of the county governments has had relation to their administrative functions. In the largest counties the boards of supervisors are so large as to be unwieldy. In Erie county, for example, there are fifty-four supervisors. There is no administrative head to these large boards. In Westchester county there is a board of thirty-eight supervisors and an annual expenditure of upward of \$1,500,000, without any head or chief administrative officer to formulate any constructive or economical policy, or to see that any definite legislative policy is carried out.

To meet these conditions the revised Constitution amends the existing requirement that there shall be a board of supervisors in every county, except a county wholly included in a city, by adding a proviso that "the Legislature by general laws may establish different forms of government for a county not wholly included in a city, any such form of government to become effective in any county only when approved by the electors thereof in such manner as the Legislature may prescribe." It further provides that no local or special law relating to a county or counties, except when wholly included within a city, shall be enacted by the Legislature except upon request, by resolution, of the governing body of the county or counties affected. The Legislature is empowered by general laws to confer upon any other governing bodies it may establish, as well as upon boards of supervisors as now authorized, such further powers of local legislation and administration as it may deem expedient; and also to confer upon any elective or appointive county officer or officers any of the powers and duties now exercised by the towns of any county, or the officers thereof, relating to highways, public safety and the care of the poor.

By another amendment (Art. XI, sec. 12) the Legislature is directed to provide for the method and limitations under which debts may be contracted by the cities, counties, towns, villages and other civil divisions of the State, to the end that such debts shall be payable in annual installments, the last of which shall fall due and be paid within fifty years after such debt shall have been contracted; and it is also forbidden to contract any such debt for a period longer than the probable life of the work or object for which the debt is to be contracted.

These amendments clothe the Legislature with power to enact general laws embodying an improved form of county government, which any county may adopt at the election of its own citizens. On the other hand, they relieve the counties from constant legislative interference in their local affairs and protect the Legislature from importunities on behalf of special interests regarding county affairs, by prohibiting the enactment of any special county law except at the instance of the local governing body of the county. It was the conviction of

the convention that these amendments would pave the way to such improvements in county government as the enlightened public sentiment of the inhabitants of the respective counties might suggest.

The revised Constitution continues the Legislature as at present divided into a Senate, whose members are elected for two years, and an Assembly, chosen for one year. The Senate, as at present, shall consist of fifty members, subject to increase where any county having three or more Senators is entitled on the ratio obtained by dividing the number of inhabitants, excluding aliens, by 50, to an additional Senator. The Assembly continues with 150 members. The rule of reapportionment of Senate and Assembly districts adopted in the Constitution of 1894 is continued, except that such reapportionment is to be made every ten years on the basis of the Federal census, if one be available, thus saving the State the expense of about \$500,000 involved in taking a separate census of its inhabitants.

One other modification of the article in the existing Constitution is made, namely that in a city embracing more than one county and having no board of supervisors, instead of the entire board of aldermen or similar body of the whole city making the apportionment for all the counties, the members elected from each county to the board of aldermen or other body must nearly exercising the powers of a board of aldermen are charged with the duty of dividing the county into Assembly districts and making the reapportionment of inhabitants to such districts. The provision that every county shall be entitled to at least one member of Assembly is continued. So is the provision that no county shall have more than one-third of all the Senators; and that no two counties, or the territory thereof as organized on January 1, 1895, which are adjoining counties, or which are separated only by public waters, meaning in effect the counties of New York, Kings and Bronx, shall have more than one-half of the Senators.

The retention of this provision was the only partisan issue in the convention. Because of the opposition to it on the part of the Democratic delegates from the city of New York, and their expressed unwillingness to vote for the revised Constitution with this provision in it, the convention directed that the proposed amendments containing this provision (sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of Article III.) be submitted to the electors separately from the remainder of the revised Constitution.

The Constitutional Convention of 1894 felt compelled to divide the State into Senate and Assembly districts and apportion the inhabitants thereof to and among such districts because of the fact that only two years before that convention an apportionment was made by a Democratic Legislature which is now admitted, even by representatives of the Democratic party, to have been grossly unfair. The introduction of the apportionment question into the convention of 1894, however, resulted in bitter partisan strife, the consequences of which were eloquently testified to by those delegates from both parties in the convention of 1915 who had been members of the convention of 1894.

In order to remove that source of discord from future conventions the Constitution of 1894 not simply embodied a division of the State into Senate and Assembly districts but it also established certain rules to govern the reapportionments which changes in population might require to be periodically made, by the application of which rules reapportionments might be made in fairness to all political interests. At that time the consolidation of the cities of New York and Brooklyn into the Greater New York was in contemplation, and to prevent the control of the whole State passing to the inhabitants of one particular locality the convention of 1894 inserted in the Constitution the provision above referred to, to the effect that no county should have more than one-third of all the Senators, and no two counties or the territory thereof as then constituted which are adjoining counties, or which are separated only by public waters, shall have more than one-half of all the Senators.

The article containing this provision was submitted separately to the vote of the electors, and received a substantial majority of all the votes cast, not only in the State but in the city of New York itself. As a matter of fact, the prohibition has never been called into practical operation. Under the last apportionment the territory now comprising the counties of New York and Bronx has had twelve Senators, the county of Kings eight, the county of Queens one and the two counties of Richmond and Rockland together one Senator, thus giving to the city of New York twenty-one and one-half out of fifty-one Senators.

The report of the Secretary of State, giving the unofficial census of the State by counties as of June 1, 1915, which was submitted to the Constitutional Convention on September 9, shows a net increase of the population of the greater city of 299,639. While this report shows an increase in the citizen population over 1910 or 1890, in Kings county, 194,655 in Bronx, 111,610 in Queens and 12,716 in Richmond, it also shows a falling off in New York county of 188,481 since 1910, and an apportionment according to these figures would result only, in an

increase of one Senator from the greater city of New York, namely in the county of Queens, thus giving to the city twenty-two and one-half Senators; still considerably short of one-half of the total number of members of the Senate. The effect of this prohibition is therefore still entirely academic; yet a considerable number of Republicans from the State outside of the greater city were anxious to extend the prohibition to the entire city. It was, however, the judgment of the majority of the convention that it was unwise to change the rule of apportionment which had been established so long. Senator WAGNER, in explaining his vote against the adoption of the revised Constitution, said:

I shall to the bitter and oppose and, of course, vote against the apportionment provision.

On the other hand, Mr. R. B. SMITH, a prominent Republican delegate from Syracuse, explained his vote against the adoption of the Constitution by saying:

Mr. President, the up-State is responsible for the presence here of a majority, and in fairness to them they were entitled to have incorporated into the Constitution a senatorial restriction against the city of New York which means something.

Between these two extremes the provision submitted to the voters seemed to the convention a conservative mean.

Several other amendments are embodied in the revised Constitution respecting the Legislature. By section 19 of Article III. the prohibition against the passage of private or local bills was further extended to include any such bills which grant to any corporation, association or individual the right to prove a claim against the State or against a civil division thereof. By section 20 the Legislature is forbidden to audit or allow any private claim or account against the State or against any civil division thereof. All such claims must be presented and audited by the proper authorities pursuant to general laws. The Legislature, and the authorities of civil divisions of the State, are expressly authorized to appropriate the necessary money to pay claims and accounts which shall have been properly audited and allowed pursuant to such general laws.

In view of the change in the method of making appropriations of public moneys involved in the adoption of the budget system, the section in the present Constitution requiring appropriation bills to be passed only when three-fifths of all the members elected to either house are present is omitted.

For the purpose of removing for the future such doubts as arose in the Sulzer impeachment trial concerning the power of the Legislature to consider impeachment matters except at its regular annual session, a new section (Article III, section 10) authorizes the Assembly of its own motion to convene for the purpose of impeachment, and the Legislature is further empowered of its own motion to convene to take action in the matter of the removal of a Judge of the Court of Appeals or Justice of the Supreme Court. No subject shall be acted upon at a meeting so authorized except that for which the meeting is by this section authorized to be held.

Another amendment requires each house of the Legislature to keep a record of its debates and promptly publish the same from day to day, except such particulars as may require secrecy.

All of these provisions combine to remove the Legislature from the necessity of dealing with special local demands, and to require it to devote its attention to the enactment of general laws applicable to the State at large rather than to mere localities, and to the passage of appropriation bills pursuant to the requirements of the administrative departments as formulated in the annual budget prepared by the Governor. The purposes of these amendments were briefly stated by Senator ROOT in his closing address to the convention in the following language:

When we came to our work on the 6th of April last we addressed ourselves first to studying the conditions of the government of the State. We found that the Legislature of the State had declined in public esteem, and that a majority of the members of the Legislature were occupying themselves chiefly in the promotion of private and local bills, special interests, with which they came to Albany, private and local interests, upon which apparently their relations to their constituents depended, and which made them cowards and demoralized the whole body.

We have done our best to devise and adopt measures which will remedy these evils.

The convention further provided for an increase in the annual salaries of the Legislature from \$1,500 to \$2,500, besides their traveling expenses. The present salary was fixed forty years ago. Its inadequacy under modern conditions has frequently been commented upon, and it is believed has operated to prevent many of those otherwise highly qualified from seeking election to the State Legislature. In view of the added duties and increased dignity which should result from the amendments adopted by the convention, it was thought proper to increase the compensation of the members of the Legislature to an amount sufficient to enable competent men to give up their regular employment and seek election to the Legislature, even with the understanding that it would probably involve a continuous absence from their homes in attendance upon their legislative duties at the Capitol for half a year. The net cost to the State of this increase is but slight, while the desirability of securing the services of the best available men is obvious, and will certainly not be

derided by those who believe in representative government and are anxious to see it applied in the affairs of the State of New York under conditions which will restore it to a position deserving of the esteem and confidence of our people.

GEOORGE W. WICKHAM, New York, September 30.

## ARMENIAN ATROCITIES.

The Conflict of Testimony in the Various Reports.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I read with surprise the other day the bold assertion of Count von Bernstorff that the atrocities committed by Turkish authorities against Armenians are pure invention.

Count von Bernstorff bases his assertion, according to his own words, upon "the recent official and authentic information received by the German Government"; and he is of the opinion that the Catholicos or Primate of the Armenian Church is writing under pressure of Russian censure.

I have no doubt Count von Bernstorff has received his information through official channels, and most of the information has been furnished to the German Government by the very perpetrators of those organized crimes.

Those who are aware that having information received by the German Government; and he is of the opinion that the Catholicos or Primate of the Armenian Church is writing under pressure of Russian censure.

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